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ACTION: AmEmbassy MOSCOW

INFO: AmEmbassy WARSAW

SUBJ: Press Guidance on JDL-TASS

WARSAW FOR DAVIES

Ref: State 25296; Moscow 1062

DEPARTMENT OF STATE MOD/MS

REVIEWED BY

FOOTNOTES

US ADM

ENDORSES EXISTING

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RELEASE DENIED

FOI REQUESTS

1. Department spokesman drew on following guidance over weekend in responding to press inquiries about Strelnikov article alleging "cynical deal" offered to Soviets in TASS-JDL claim and counter-claim.

"The charges in the Pravda article alleging that the Department and other U.S. authorities are protecting the perpetrators of attacks on Soviet personnel and installations are utterly false. As a matter of fact, the U.S. Government is trying to expedite efforts to apprehend these criminals and to bring them to justice.

"In the specific case cited in the article, which concerns legal actions arising from the December 1969

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attack by members of the JDL on the TASS office, the writer of the Pravda article shows no understanding of the legal processes in the United States, and his account is therefore distorted."

2. Spokesman then briefly reviewed facts in case noting that during preliminary hearing on cross-complaint "The Judge determined that a full hearing was necessary and this was set for March 1. As frequently occurs when there are criminal charges and counter-charges between private persons, the judge did, as we understand it, propose that both the charges and counter-charges ~~are~~ be dropped. The Soviets, of course, refused to drop their charges."

End

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